

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 /087 W

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R 051028Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 477

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REACTION TO BREZHNEV'S CONGRESS SPEECH

REF: MOSCOW 2975 (NOTAL)

1. ISRAELI MFA OFFICIAL (RAVIV) TOLD US THE MINISTRY SEES
THE MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF BREZHNEV'S CONGRESS SPEECH AS
A REPEAT OF BASIC SOVIET POLICY LINES, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING
THAT SOME OBSERVERS FOUND INDICATIONS OF FLEXIBILITY. HE
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HIGHLIGHTED THREE POINTS FROM THAT PORTION OF BREZHNEV'S
SPEECH WHICH ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE ISRAELIS:

2. FIRST, HE NOTED BREZHNEV'S MENTION OF GUARANTEES FOR A POSSIBLE MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT A NEW THEME (HE RECALLED IT FIRST APPEARED IN THE FOUR POWER TALKS IN NEW YORK IN 1970), THE MFA SEES IT AS AN INDICATION OF CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION IN ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

3. SECOND, HE NOTED THE CARE USED IN DISCUSSING THE PLO. THE MINISTRY BELIEVES THE SOVIET LEADERS HAVE THEIR OWN GOOD REASONS FOR THIS CARE, AND SEE IT REFLECTED IN OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS SUCH AS GROMYKO'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM AND SOVIET STATEMENTS IN THE JANUARY SESSION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

4. THIRD, HE NOTED BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF THE ARABS. WHILE CAUTIOUS, HE BELIEVES THIS MAY INDICATE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS LESS PREPARED TO SUPPORT AN ARAB MILITARY STRUGGLE.
TOON

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